

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Further reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 – 11 and 13 – 21 are presently active in this case. Claims 3, 10, 14, and 20 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding office action, claims 3-11 and 13-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 5,287,292 to Kenny et al. in view of U.S. patent No. 4,602,872 to Emery et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejection.

Briefly recapitulating, claims 3 and 10 define an integrated circuit (IC) including a plurality of thermal sensors placed on the IC. Likewise, claims 14 and 20 define sensing temperature at a plurality of locations on an IC. As conceded in the official action, Kenny et al. merely teach a single thermal sensor and that the sensor is mounted near the circuit to be monitored. That is, the thermal sensor of Kenny et al. is not placed on the circuit to be monitored. By placing a plurality of sensors on the IC, the timing and accuracy of determining whether the IC is running hot is improved as compared to Kenny et al. which places the temperature sensor near the circuit being monitored.


Regarding the claim term “across the integrated circuit,” the official action asserts that at broad reasonable interpretation of “across” means “into contact with.” Applicant respectfully traverses. However, in order to expedite prosecution, without prejudice to pursue claims in the future reciting the claim term “across,” Applicant has amended the independent claims to recite that the thermal sensors are placed on the integrated circuit. See by way of non-limiting example page 22, lines 14-21 of the specification. No further rejection of the basis of the combination of Kenny et al. and Emory et al. is therefore anticipated.

Emery et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Kenny et al. Consequently, Kenny et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claims 3-11 and 13-21 when considered alone or in combination with Emery et al..

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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